



Homework Policy

The Governors and staff of North Walsall Primary Academy believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning thus encouraging the child to take great responsibility for their personal progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the Academy, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

This policy is based on current government guidelines which emphasises the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn. The guidelines include how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough whilst others feel there is too much! The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which we believe to be reasonable and manageable as well as in line with the guidance provided.

Aims

Homework is encouraged throughout the Academy. To be most effective, parents, carers, staff and the children need to understand its purpose.

- It reinforces skills which have been taught in Academy and gives children the opportunity to practice what they have learnt;
- It encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning;
- It promotes independent learning
- It provides teachers with the opportunity to support and extend individual children;
- It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary Academy and futures employment
- It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers;
- It encourages parents and carers to become involved with their children's learning

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and Academy which is reflected in the Home-Academy Agreement. We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time'.

Reading

We would hope that children read at least three times a week and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and is not just confined to the total time spent completing homework. This would include fostering early reading skills, where appropriate. We want to

promote a love of reading in every child. We encourage parents and carers to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is understanding of their book as well as accurate reading.

Homework Schedules

Homework is given on a regular basis across the Academy following the schedule below. From time to time, homework may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit. Homework content may be set as a written piece of homework or may include reading, games and activities to reinforce Literacy, Maths or other skills. For older children homework may include completing work set, finding out information, preparing a presentation, designing and/or making something, trying out a simple scientific experiment and solving problems. As with all work set, homework is monitored and results are recorded.

Year Group	Guideline Amount	Tasks/Activities/Subject Areas: Our expectations are that:
EY		Children will read. A Maths task, sound and/or word work may be set. This should be worked on for a few minutes each evening
Yr 1	Up to 1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week.
Yr 2	Up to 1 hour weekly	Children will read. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Occasionally they may complete a relevant themed task. Time spent on homework should be up to 15 minutes each evening
Yr 3	Up to 1 ½ weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening
Yr 4	Up to 1 ½ weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening
Yr 5	Up to 25 minutes daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 25 minutes each evening
Yr 6	Up to 30 minutes daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 30 minutes each evening

The gradual increase allows children to develop their skills and independence in completing homework and ensures that they are ready for the expectation of 45 to 90 minutes daily in Years 7 and 8.

Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be sent out on a Friday, completed carefully and returned on a Wednesday. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the children's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher. Class teachers will co-operate closely in their Key Stages to ensure that similar content and expectations between classes is in place.

The Principal will:

- Promote the Academy homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy

The teacher will:

- Set regular homework activities which will include both practical and written tasks
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise and encouragement, marking or testing (as appropriate)
- Set high expectation of pupils in completing homework

Parents and Carers should support their children by:

- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the Academy in explaining how it can help raise attainment
- Providing activities that support the activities set by the teacher
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children
- Contact the children's class teacher if they have any questions or contact the Principal if they have queries of a general nature regarding homework. If parents wish to make a complaint about the Academy homework policy or the way it is implemented, parent should contact the governing body

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete task as instructed
- Ask for help as appropriate
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning

Home learning should benefit teacher, pupils and parents by providing support and information to enable pupils to build confidence and make progress.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the homework policy is efficiently and effectively implanted within their class. This will be monitored by the Vice Principal in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.

Inclusion

All children will have access to homework or that is relevant to their current stage of learning.

Equal Opportunities

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or home background.

Date updated: October 2017

Review date: October 2018

North Walsall SLT